

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:702
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002
ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT POVERTY
JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether during the meeting of the South Asian Financial and Planning Ministers held in Islamabad in April 2002, a 16 point action plan was adopted to combat poverty;
- (b) If so, the details of the action plan; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the same with respect to India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

- (a) to (c) A statement is placed on the table of House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (A) TO (C) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 702 TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.5.2002

- (a) to (c) An Action Plan was adopted in the South Asian Planning and Finance Ministers Conference in Islamabad. This Action Plan, recommended by the conference, is in two parts - Recommendations on
 - (i) internal policies and
 - (ii) external policies.

The recommendation on internal policies related to good governance, sound macro-economic policies, employment generation, decentralization and local government empowerment, and social safety nets for the vulnerable sections of society, amongst others. On External policies the ministers recommended working closely with developed countries to increase the ODA levels, seeking increased market access for products, reducing the burden of external borrowings and debts, and preventing outflow of illegal and tax-evaded money from the region.

Most of the recommendation on Internal Policies are already being implemented by the Government of India under its various poverty alleviation and economic upliftment schemes. On the external policies recommendations, there are efforts at the UN to appeal to developed countries to increase their ODA commitments; and at other international fora to seek increased market access for developing countries products. Regarding reduction on multilateral borrowings, external debts and prevention of outflow of illegal and tax evaded money, preventive measures are already in place in India.